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### Peaks Island Times : Aug 1977

Leon S. Clough

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# PEAKS ISLAND TIMES

Vol. 1, No. 3

August 1977

25 Cents

## HOUSE ISLAND



PHOTO - LEON CLOUGH

There are only a very few women that are sole owners of an island. Hilda Dudley claims that accomplishment as well as being the only one who is proprietor of a fortification as well.

Acquiring House Island in the mid-50s she has preserved its natural, historical state, sharing it with hundreds of young campers and visitors as they taste the thrill of being entirely sea

surrounded with only ship-to-shore communication and private boat to connect them with the 'rest of the world' beyond.

Shaped like a figure 8, the 2 portions contain some 30 acres, cont. p. 4



## EDITORIALS

L.D.1029, an act appropriating funds for the aquisition and construction of a site for certian Casco Bay island ferry services and to repair other ferry facilities was signed into law by Gov. James B. Longley on July 22, 1977.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Edith S. Beaulieu, Dem. of Portland will bring to the city \$120,000.00 and a potential additional \$50,000.00 in federal funds according to Transportation Commissioner Roger Mallar.

The bill, originally called for one million dollars. Since state revenues were very uncertian, only the land aquisition costs were appropriated. The bill came out of committee as a leave to withdraw for study purposes and signed as a majority ought not to pass. Rep. Beaulieu contended that the matter had been studied to death and refused the leave to withdraw. In cooperation with Rep. John Jensen Dem. of Portland, an amendment for the land costs was drafted and brought to the floor of the House.

"Overturning a 10 to 1 report was not easy," said Mrs. Beaulieu. I sold the bill on the premise that the only highway to an island is water, you need to use a boat to get there and the problem in Portland was that we had an 'on and off ramp' problem. The House was also reminded that the islands were three small towns in need of help and most deserving. The House vote was 110 for and 24 against. The bill then went to the Senate where it sat on the table as an unassigned bill.

Since the bill carried an 'emergency preamble' on it, the House and Senate had to carry a two-thirds vote. During the last few days of the session it was finally sent to the Appropriation Committee. Due to efforts of members of that committee, Commissioner Mallar, who supported the bill and leadership, the bill finally went to the Goveners desk.

Rep. Beaulieu credits the Portland delegation's "sticking together" on the matter, City Hall's urging of the project and the House and Senate's democratic leadership for the bills success. "We also had many Republican friends helping us. I can assure all of my island friends that the State House had a good lesson on Casco Bay, its great people, and its great, great problems," she said.

She also said that she is very hopeful that there will be a study made on the other two bills that were filed for the island transportation problems. She signed the study out as a number one priority for the Transportation Committee's summer study as did most of the Portland delegation. Decisions may well have been made by the time this report is printed.

Representative, Edith S. Beaulieu

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Editor - Leon Clough  
Production - Gary Chapman  
Greg Scandlen

Advertising - Loretta Voyer  
Gary Chapman  
Sec. and Tres. Irene Murray  
Photography - Leon Clough  
Garv Chapman

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## Obituary

We deeply regret the loss of Mrs. Hazel Sinnot, who passed away unexpectedly Fri., July 22, and very much missed by her many friends and family.

## Congratulations To.....

The Times' Production Manager, Mr. Greg Scandlen and his wife Susan for the birth of Abigail Monroe, born July 6, 1977.

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Kilday of Wilmington, Del. for the birth of 8 lb. 2 oz. Elizabeth Marie, Granddaughter of Mrs. John Betty Kilday, born July 9, 1977.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Deane of Natick St., for the birth of their 6lb. 4 oz. bouncing baby boy, Peter Garrett Deane, on June 27, 1977.

Rev. and Mrs. Michael E. Davis of Presque Isle, Me., for the birth of their 7 lb. 8oz. blessed baby girl, Jessie Celeste Davis, on July 3, 1977

Ralph and Sylvia Morrill of Sun Valley, Calif. for the birth of twin girls, Rachel and Kelly Ann, Grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Morrill of Island Ave. born on July 4, 1977.

Making friends for the world to see  
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### TO THE RESIDENTS OF PEAKS ISLAND


We greatly appreciate your support last winter in keeping the taxi going. When we were wondering if we could continue to make ends meet with the \$.75 fare, you came forward with petitions to the City Council for an increase of \$.25 per person. The \$1.00 per person fare was approved by the City Council on February 24, 1977, for all the islands.

During the past two weeks while meeting boats, I have heard many remarks about the current fare.

We hope that the summer residents will understand the expenses that are involved in operating a taxi business - and especially on an island. The cost of licenses, permits and insurance is very high; not to mention maintenance and gasoline which, by the way, is currently 73.7¢ per gallon.

We try very hard to accommodate everyone we can and with courtesy. We like this island and want this island to like us!

Lenny and Clare

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# HOUSE ISLAND cont.

connected by a tiny sandbar. When the flag is flying from the pole this means that Hilda is 'home' and expecting visitors.

Because it was the first of the Casco Bay islands to bear a wooden structure for living purposes, (reportedly built by Christopher Leavitt in 1623), this haven once occupied by Indians, was called 'House Island'.

Its earliest white settlers were fishermen, partnering in a fish drying enterprise as they stretched out the filleted catch on rows of 'racks', later salted down for storage. These men left traces of the names Sterling, Brackett and Trefethen.

A fort of logs and earth to protect against the ousted red men was erected on the hill of the 12 acre half. It contained a cannon opening on either side and a carefully carved eagle on the front.

In 1808 this structure was strengthened when the U.S. government bought the sea surrounded acreage for \$1200 in order to protect Portland's harbor entrance prior to the War of 1812. Though prepared for defense--no shot was fired.

Four decades later this fort was replaced by a masterpiece imaginatively fashioned with granite blocks (many the size of today's automobiles) with 4/5s of the protection subterranean for ammunition vaults, living quarters and a dungeon for troublesome occupants or invaders. Complete with 95 cannon filled openings and fantastically spiralled stairway, totally blackened corridors, stalactited ceilings and incredibly echoing acoustics instantly stir one's imagination beyond reasonable limits. Skin shrinks and tightens, nerves prick in dread of the immediate moments ahead. Mischievous screams produce total terror and eerie echoes of footsteps push you to panic.

It's a ready made setting for a TV production of espionage, imprisonment, and horror with a frantically frustrated escape.

The artist/engineer responsible for all this was Thomas Lincoln Casey, West Pointer, who became a Brig. General in his 30s, creating Maine's fortifications--Gorges, Preble, Popham and Knox. All patterned after Ft. Sumpter. He went on to supervise building of the Library of Congress, State, Navy and War Buildings and for good measure completed the stagnated Washington Monument.

House Island's fort, involving 10 years work and nearly \$60,000 was named to honor Gen. Alexander Scammel, Harvard grad, law student, assistant to Gen. George Washington 3 years, killed at Yorktown when age 34.

Created to again provide harbor guard during the Civil War, it was manned by 300 soldiers but never 'spoke'. At the turn of the century, termed obsolete, the old Sterling house on it was razed and an emigration station, doctors' house and brick hospital built there in 1905. During WWI battle fatigued soldiers were sent out for a quiet rest in the beautifully healing surroundings. It later housed Russian emigrants until 1923, often 2-3 hundred at a time.

While the entrance of most was a joyful culmination of dreamfilled years, scrupulously saved for--there were many heart rending dramas enacted there as well. Those with trades and skills gained easy access, but for others the 'quota' spelled entrance to freedom or return to oblivion.

An engineer father found the door wide open, but his 9 year old motherless son was 'unacceptable'. Ukrainian pianist Leo Nasorovich was welcomed graciously. His untalented sister--refused. A Russian Baron came in easily.

Later his wife followed without trouble but their 4 year old child, born in Finland, exceeded the Finnish quota! Their solutions are not known. But a linotype operator, beyond the magic number, attempted suicide by jumping from the fort rocks into the heavy swells below. Rescued, he was handcuffed in an iron barred box and shipped back to his homeland despite his threats of further suicidal actions.

One case had a magnificently happy ending when 3 sisters, endeavoring to join their parents as children, were refused due to eye infections and sent back to their Russian grandmother. Seeking entrance again as young women in their 20s, they were found to be over the quota. The \$1700 carefully saved by their parents had been used up during their long delays crossing several borders, waiting endlessly at various stations and finally purchasing their precious boat fares. With nothing to return to--or with--they were forced to take desperate measures. Somehow their appeals reached the Council of Jewish Women in Portland who enlisted the aid of Senator Hale, (Cushing Island summer resident) and he in turn obtained signatures and permits from Boston Mayor Curley and President Coolidge.

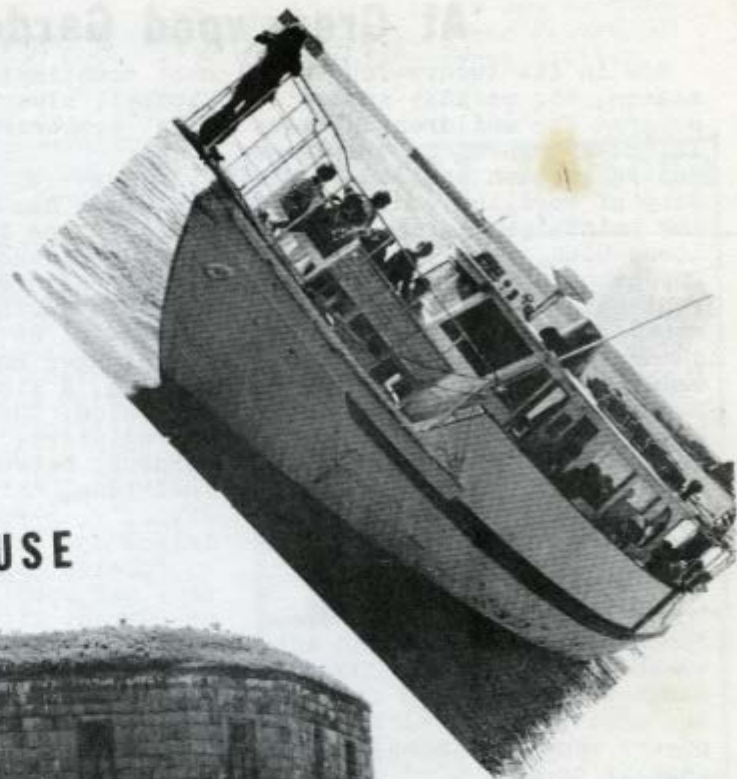
At times high school bands, bagpipe players and Scottish dancers rowed over to entertain the bewildered occupants. One Thanksgiving an impressive fireworks display was provided.

In 1939 the island was put up for grabs. It had been suggested for several possible uses--ammo depots for the Navy in the underground vaults, a bomb shelter for Portland residents, a city park, convalescent home for Vets, landing field for planes going to and from Canada, a fancy yacht club, etc. But no one came forward with a bid. cont. p.

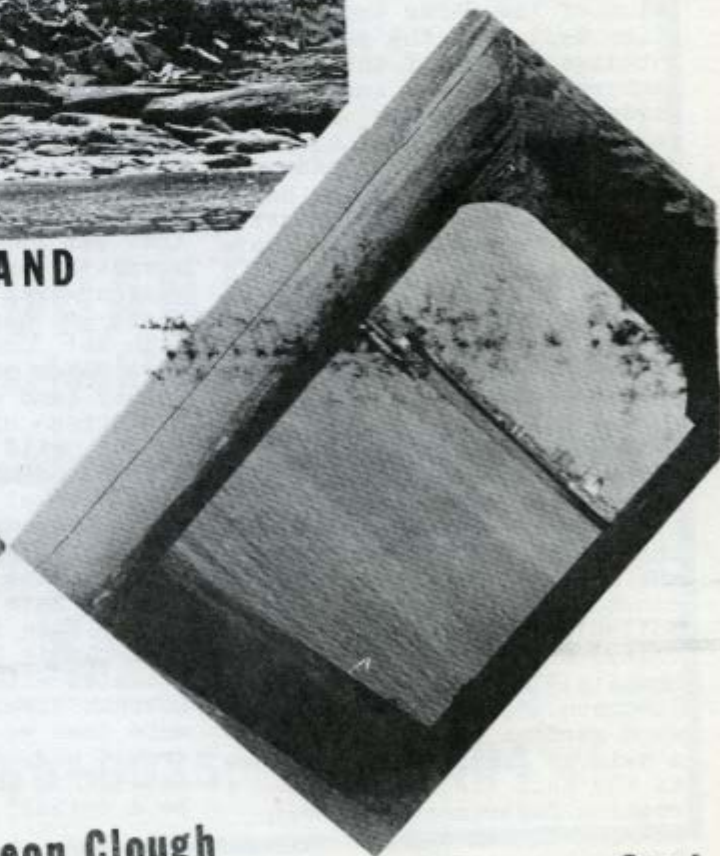




**HOUSE**



**ISLAND**



**Photos Leon Clough**

*Peaks Island Times*



## At Greenwood Garden

Now in its twenty-fourth season, the weekday summer program for children on Peaks Island-sponsored by the Parks and Recreation program of the City of Portland and initiated and maintained by the island's Lions Club, is underway at Greenwood Gardens. Barring real rain, at nine-thirty each morning the year-round and summer young have been gathering since June 21st. The program will conclude on August 12th. Several cookout-picnics have been held on the area in July, a Sandy Beach picnic and an Earliest Penny Contest won by Catherine Ones (1912) and Richard Dinsmore (1919). A Song Fest and Rhythm Orchestra Day, a small food and crafts sale and Arts exhibit are planned. Sports, games and supervised free play are usual; story telling and poetry appeal to some, music, usually to all.

With the generous cooperation of the Parks and Recreation Dept. and the particular tutelage of one of the Lion members, ambitious small gardens have been put in this year and daily tended by the children. Parents, friends and playground neighbors have loaned additional implements; child gardeners and staff have toiled long and hard and mercifully, and the flowers bloom! The geometric gardens by the clubhouse will be dedicated in August to Mr. Charles Franco.

Afoot are tentative plans for a girls soft ball team to come for a day from Limington, Maine, with their own chaperones and coach to play the Peaks Island girls team, coached by two year-round men. Following an a.m. game at the (city) ball field, Lions Club hospitality will host their luncheon cookout at Greenwood gardens at noon; then a swim at Sandy Beach and more at the ball field. The Recreation Department has been loaning the proper and very official equipment and there is high interest and excite-

ment mounting! Badminton and Croquet, always great favorites, temporarily pale.

For several summers the popular trip has been to Sebago Lake. If the budget allows, there will shortly (for the oldest children in the program) be another. In any case, there will be a trip and for the younger children participating, a simpler, more local excursion. The program generally registers, at Greenwood Gardens, between 350 and 400 individual children- of those living year-round on the island and from 27 states and 11 foreign countries of which they had been native, resident or current citizens with their families. The speed of interaction and relationship among these children who come for one day or eight weeks is constantly amazing; from such widely differing backgrounds of experience they quickly mesh. Most easily in an outdoor and genuine atmosphere, children do take care of these things!

The staff deeply appreciates the kind interest and cooperation of so many, and the children too. Hopefully they'll wish to sponsor another pet show for you soon, always so popular, for aome reason, with island adults! Watch for posters. Come swing with us! Come rediscover - in a place of incredible beauty (and with over 27 varieties of trees and shrubs, wild strawberries in season and bayberry in the field above) what Robert Louis Stevenson meant; listen thoughtfully, as children can, as Christina Rossetti did, asking "Have you seen the Wind?" Muse for a moment with Sir Francis Drake (not always occupied with historic Elizabethan naval victories; no more than we with the sea around us), and ask of yourself, "Know Ye What It Is To Be A Child?"

Arabella C. Anderson

Peaks Island Times

## HOUSE ISLAND cont.

In 1948, listed as surplus by the War Assets Administration, it was purchased by Navy Capt. Lincoln King, using his 'vet's preference', for \$1200. The same price paid for it by the government so many years ago. However, his interest waned and 10 years later Hilda became the appreciative and devoted owner.

Only the essential touches of modernization have been added. A 'restaurant' that offers packaged meals to enjoy at the outdoor picnic tables where one can watch the sail and motor-boats pass by and wave to the curious passengers aboard the ferries. Tankers seem to brush the shores, lobstermen provide good camera material as they haul in their catch near the coves, gulls claim their own locations there as House Island remains an unbelievable little kingdom of solitude, peace, history and adventure. A day there becomes an unforgettable memory which few people are fortunate enough to experience.

Almost frontierish, its facilities are provided by a wood stove, 'running' water (provided by young feet) from the well, kerosene lamps and candles at night, electricity resultant from a gasoline powered generator--highly expensive and saved for emergencies. However, the front door boasts a mail slot--strictly for humor-or for notes left by unexpected visitors.

If you have never experienced a visit there--don't let another summer pass by without one!

Ruth Sargent-





Recently I had the opportunity to attend two City Council meetings at which items of interest to Peaks Island were discussed. I had the pleasure of speaking at one such meeting but felt that my words were to no avail. One of the reasons for this feeling of impotence was that two island based organizations were there to speak and, although they did not state that they represented the feelings of the island as a whole, most certainly the implication was there. This caused me some considerable thought as I felt that possibly I should join one of the organizations in order that my voice be more effectively heard. Then came the problem, which one to join? I was faced with a choice; the ICA or the CBIDA? Which one could I best identify with and which one was nearest to my way of thinking on issues vital to the island? After considerable thought, I came to the conclusion that neither of the organizations represented my

## Letter's To The Editor

thoughts, my feelings or even my lifestyle. Further pondering made me realize that Peaks Island has no forum to express its views save the two organizations mentioned which I doubt, together represent 10% of the people on the island.

What to do was the next question. The answer, to me, is to hold meetings periodically for all islanders to come and express their views. This does not mean establishing another organization but rather setting a date for a meeting of all the residents to air their problems and complaints and then appoint a person to pass on to the appropriate agency ALL views expressed for consideration by the agency concerned.

This may not be the greatest of ideas, but I feel that if any other persons living on Peaks Island feel as disenfranchised as I do, maybe

they ought to let this paper know about their feelings and possibly we can at some point in the near future set up such a general meeting.

Peter J Deane

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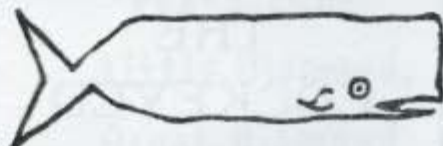
**Don Schei**

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# PEAKS ISLAND SEWAGE STUDY

The action of the sewage meeting on July 26 was a committee of Peaks Island people to study with the City, the full range of alternatives in dealing with island sewage. This action is on the assumption that it will be possible to postpone for a year any decision as to the direction Peaks Island will go in bringing sewage disposal to DEP standards. The volunteers to the committee include: Greg Scandlen, Ken Porter, Charles Wright, Irene Schensted, Peggy Harmon, Marilyn Faison, Bruce Lincoln, Russel Pike, Remington Schmidt, and Admiral Robert Huston.

We are greatly indebted to the GPCOG and especially to the federally funded task force on water quality for the 18 months of work that has resulted in the alternatives presented to us before coming to the City for decision. We particularly appreciate the way Esther Lacognata has carved out the role of citizen coordinator, new in this kind of procedure.

As I read the sense of the meeting, the island is agreed that the present sewerage system needs to be brought into conformity with current federal and state standards, as a matter of the pride of us islanders, if nothing more. The possibility exists that the day will come when we will want our share in the development of aquaculture along the Maine coast.

The immediate concern of each household is the outlay to finance whatever system may be decided upon, an outlay that for some is more than the last straw that broke the camel's back. At the same time, we realize that in the long run, whoever pays for the system immediately, we all share in every penny laid out, through the taxes we pay. We can think of other ways we'd like to see from \$1,700,000 to \$5,100,000 of

capital funds invested for the future of Peaks Island.

The meeting on the 26th made it apparent that, especially if we share a clear intent, we do have time on our side. At the very least, those who have invested in private systems that meet state and federal standards within the past five years will have time to realize on their investment. Hopefully, those who choose to go that way now will be sufficient in number to lead to an approach that will mean less money spent to clean up water that we've dirtied by the use to which we have put it.

Gretchen Hall

I am against both plans A and B because.....

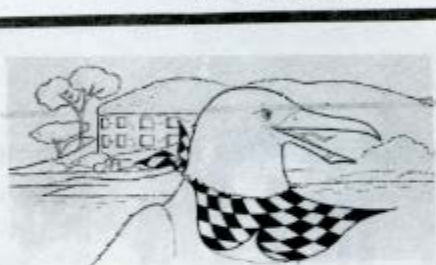
They will cause extreme hardships amongst year-round residents whose average annual income is only \$5,700. There is extreme injustice in coercing families (177 under plan A and 752 under plan B) to join the system at costs that will range from hundreds to the thousands for their lateral lines (depending upon the amount of ledge rock to be blasted) even if they have perfect septic systems.

These plans are not cost-effective. They are cost-ridiculous. For the over four million dollars in capital expenditures for plan B we could supply each of the 885 dwellings involved with a waterless toilet and could arrange to handle their grey waters as well and still have 3 million left over. The dollar costs alone are ridiculous, and no reckoning can ever be made of the cost of destroying the charm of a woodland path to lay a sewer line.

But with all the havoc these plans will cause, will they improve the quality of the water? There is insufficient data to indicate that they will and that less expensive treatments will not do just as well. (A COG administrator conceded this crucial point to me.) On the contrary, if, as is likely, these too-massive plans sponsor development of the island, they will lead to degradation of the quality of the water.

Why then have the COG administrators proceeded with these disastrous plans? They claim that the Federal "Clean Water Bill" forbids anything but secondary treatment (read sewer plant) for Peaks. However, where, as here, great social havoc will be wrought and the benefits to be gained are dubious, the law allows

cont, next page



## THE COCKEYED GULL

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cont. from p.8

for petitioning the Federal administrator for permission to use an alternative plan. I believe that the COG staff should have prepared for us such an alternative plan with the intent of petitioning for license to use it if necessary. We deserve our day in court.

Even a superficial reading of the federal law reveals that its authors never intended centralized sewage-treatment to be foisted wholesale on rural and the less densely populated communities. In fact, Senator Muskie, one of the chief authors of the law, has urged us to move away from "the traditional sewage treatment syndrome" and has written one of the goals of the "Clean Water Bill" was to spur the search for new solutions, simpler ones, such as the use of waterless toilets.

These plans, especially B will inflict enormous damage on the island's environment. Certainly a complete environmental impact study should have been undertaken detailing the effects of the extensive forest destruction and blasting through ledge rock on the island's delicate eco-system. No such study seems to have been undertaken. In general, to plan effectively for this unusual community-by-the-sea COG badly needs soil and marine biologists who understand the natural processes involved and are not committed to the high technology approach.

These plans have been carried too far along without input from the people whose lives will be so harshly affected. Most of the people at the meeting on the 26th did not know of them until only a few days ago. They come completely as a surprise.

Recommendations. I recommend that COG abandon plans A and B for Peaks, that it study other, simpler alternative water quality strategies, and that it initiate whatever legal procedures

necessary to obtain permission from the Federal administrator to use these.

Dr. Irene Schensted

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## P. I. Art Association

The Casco Bay Art Association is in the middle of its busy summer schedule. During the winter, Activities slowed down to a leisurely pace (not so that of its members who were working) to produce the beautiful paintings, crafts and other media which fill the Gallery. The Christmas party was hosted by Clara Foley and was a gala affair living up to its reputation of being a high point of the season.

In June things started to hum with the opening of the Gallery and the annual Food Sale which was a huge success. Thanks to the members and the many friends who so generously cooked quantities of delicious foods for us to sell.

Due to the creative talents of Chairperson Clara Foley and her committee members, Gretchen Hall and June Caru, the Gallery is tastefully and imaginatively arranged and a delight to visit. If you

cont. next



cont. from p. 9  
haven't been in this year, be sure to do so before it closes in September.

The Gallery is open daily (except Wed.) from 11:00a.m. to 3:30 p.m. until Labor Day. After Labor Day it will be open on weekends.

Macreme' Artist Bernice Schofield was the guest speaker at the June meeting and her program was filled with interesting ideas on macreme' with a beautiful display of her craft.

At the annual meeting in July Art Hahn Art Director for WCSH and Co-Chairperson of the WCSH Sidewalk Art Show was the guest artist, and the following officers were elected:

Betty Lamplough - President  
Marilyn Tuttle - Vice Pres.  
Betty Kilday - Treasurer  
Sr. Ann Augusta Cullen - Secretary

Chairperson Sr. Ann Augusta Cullen requests all young people from kindergarten through high school who wish to enter the Childrens Art Contest to submit their work now, because the contest will be judged on August 15th. The entrees will be on exhibit in the Gallery on August 14th.

On Saturday, August 20, the WCSH Sidewalk Art Show will be held in Portland and once again we will be participating with a stand where all the Association Artists will be represented. Members will be attending the stand in relays and are requested to sign up in the Gallery, designating their preferred hour.

We are looking foward to noted artist Mario Cooper and Dale Myers annual visit in August and are planning a reception and a showing of Mr. Cooper's students works in the Gallery on August 11.

Our Gallery Committee would welcome volunteers to assist them in the Gallery and urges members to get in touch with

Clara Foley 766-2212 to arrange a convenient time.

We welcome all visiting artists and it is our aim to encourage and promote all artistic endeavors,

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## Boston Bound?

Stop and Visit 'Peaksie'

The newest addition to splash into the Aquarium there, on downtown Atlantic Avenue, is our own contribution of a few weeks old seal pup. Displaying a persistent desire to become an island resident, he washed up on the rocks in Spar Cove at high tide just in time for the July Fourth weekend. Susan Melhorn, 18, of Lexington, Mass. discovered the irresistible tyke sleeping on a big rock--tourist style. Her first instinct was to take the grey mottled furry-like-a-dog baby home, put it in the tub and care for it. But then she remembered recent advice urging people to replace the little mammals back into its habitat. She felt its welfare more important than her natural desire and gave it a tender 'send-off'.



A day later it was detected by another passerby who found the pup literally 'all washed up', far beyond the high tide mark and replaced it in the sea. The following morning it was again found beyond the tide mark by Officer Lambert,

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Closed Mondays

island fireman on duty, spotted out on the rocks surrounded by several large dogs attempting to initiate a friendship. Feeling the seal was outweighed as well as outnumbered, he brought it back to the Station and called the Boston Aquarium. They promised rescue within hours.

It was 'open house' at the station from then on with a line of curious 'children-all-ages' tiptoeing up to view the then sad little seal. They had tried a cool tub of fresh water but it was disdained. Someone offered a fresh-caught maceral--no interest. Warmed milk was ignored. The mammal kept to one spot, breathing irregularly, its sides heaving in and out between violent shudders. It's barely opened eyes were glazed slits. There was no response to human voices, hands nor hearts. A very discouraging picture for the concerned group.

At 5 p.m. an open boat roared into the float and Kevin Adams of the National Marine Fisheries Service and Joseph E. Fessenden, Dept. of Marine Resources at Augusta, Maine were brought by patrol wagon to meet 'our' seal. They immediately pronounced it healthy--about 2 weeks old--definitely retrievable and with a great future ahead. Carrying it off in a cardboard box, they were instantly ringed by

cont. next page



## BOSTON BOUND cont.

children and adults. This was evidently the cue the seal had awaited. It got up, flashed bright, round black eyes, smiled and spoke decisively. A genuine bark--just as the stories always told us. Flippers were extended for clasping and his movements became more animated as the group of spectators increased. Just a real 'ham' at heart who needed an audience in order to perform.



An excited sendoff filled the float as the boat sped off to town--the airport--with a paid for by the Environmental group ticket to rush him into--Boston on the next plane to be met 20 minutes later by a representative of the Aquarium. Dubbed 'Peaksie' by Police Officer Bill Walden, stationed at Engine 12, it is catalogued as to point of discovery, age and condition when found, mode of travel to Boston and--name.

So when you are in downtown Boston, stop in and ask to meet our first island contribution to their collection. Someone has promised a 'Guest Book' for our seal and you may want to sign it. I wonder if Peaksie will remember Peaks Island?

RUTH SARGENT

## The Porthole

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# POETS CORNER

## I HEAR THE WHISTLES, I HEAR THE BELLS

Uncovered dreamer clearing  
Away the ribbons  
Like the spending silk spiders  
quiet as a bowing flower  
Listing up for the morning sun,  
A banquet of flies  
A gift of good feast,  
A gracious manner  
in the sleeping shade.

A banquet of boys and jumper girls  
Cliffs of northern sea.  
The ladies cotton light spangle  
along the tranquil bay.  
A Peaks Island summer,  
A dropping peace in  
the kingdom of the sea.

I hear the whistles, I hear the bells  
Suddenly a braid of yells  
Prancing flutes  
Streaming strokes unseen  
Gathering fire and hungry and gleaming  
A calling faraway land streaming  
An array of decked beaches  
Sand spots, sea spray, water falls,  
Streamings of cays and bays,  
fantastic first class plays  
Of atlantic and Pacific and  
Indian sea sun

My mind tree rings the bells  
Whistle shines the decks  
Beneath the trinidad sun  
And specks of untold stretches eternal,  
Like the trade winds I blow  
Like the sails lifting their bellies,  
Like the equatorial rains,  
I drift into the cobalt layers,  
Ocean blue crowds of gleam  
Wonder and Thunder.  
And the sea walls call  
Bumping and jumping at me.  
Catch the whistles, hear the bells!  
Come join my swell!  
Beach your dreams under the banana tree  
Or a spray of gigantic clouds  
And the sky wall so high and so tall  
that even the ceilings of the island Monjui  
Cannot be enough joy.

I hear the whistles, I hear the bells  
Inside the vale of Peaks summer smells  
Of high vaulted dreams  
Memories rigging in the dusk  
The tree frog buzzes in the brush  
And we wade inside the shrill whistles  
Or turnings of perfumed fog.

John Zemanek



## A Letter From Our Councilman

Dear Friends,

After considering a variety of desirable topics to share with you, I've opted to bring you up to date on several of the more significant projects directly affecting Peaks Island. While these will necessarily be "nutshell" summaries, each resident should feel free to contact me for further information on any subject.

**STREET IMPROVEMENTS:** A total of \$60,000.00 has been allocated to a seal coating program scheduled to begin in early fall. At the same time a small area for parking near the Health Center will be developed. Also consideration will be given to providing a modest facility for manufacturing our own "hot mix" on Peaks which would be a decisive weapon in our ongoing pothole battle.

**DOCK SHELTERS:** As you may know funds were allocated for dock shelters some time ago with the intent that construction would be well underway by now. However, the State Dept. of Transportation has objected to these shelters because of what they call a "safety hazard". It seems that the state feels a group of people congregating at the end of the dock would be sitting ducks for a boat out of control. Unfortunately, but not suprisingly, they can't seem to understand that those awaiting the ferry presently congregate on the dock without the benefit of a shelter - a condition that is particularly dangerous in winter months. Public Works Director, George Flaherty, is

continuing his efforts to reach a compromise with the state and is ready to build when an agreement is reached.

**BOAT LANDINGS:** Money was allocated this year to construct public boat landings on the mainland to provide day to day docking facilities for island residents. A similar, but more modest, facility is now being constructed on the Eastern Promenade - though is geared more toward usage by pleasure boaters. To date, we've been unable to come up with a suitable location to meet island needs. The state (again) will not allow the city to expand upon the present poor excuse for a landing at the State Pier as originally conceived. So were open to suggestions.

**CBL TRANSFER BRIDGE:** \$175,000.00 was allocated in this year's capital improvement program for construction of a new transfer bridge to replace the present deteriorated structure. Before construction it was decided that the entire pier should be evaluated. The engineers' report which was just received a few weeks ago paints a pretty bleak picture - at least in terms of the ability to immediately come up with enough money to do what is necessary. Thus, the City Manager and myself, mindful of the \$125,000.00 recently directed toward improved CBL facilities by the state, are presently analyzing potential new locations which could meet future needs and will compare the efficiencies of new construction v.s. renovation of existing facilities.

**SEWAGE TREATMENT:** Let me very pointedly assure all of you that, regardless of the plan chosen, I will expend all energies necessary to assure that all Peaks Island residents are assessed on the same basis as the mainland population. The COG report will be presented to the City Council on August 8th, so watch closely your vocal support may be needed.

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY FACILITY:** I've saved the best for last. nearly \$250,000.00 was allocated this year for a new Fire/Public Safety Building which will also include public toilets, a meeting room, small library facility and a roof top observation deck. The staff and myself have visited the island several times in recent weeks evaluating possible sites. It is my recommendation that this facility be located on the parcel of land directly behind the Peaks Island Service Center, bordered by Welch and Adams Streets. Not only is this a geographically desirable location but it also provides potential for future expansion, plenty of room for parking and a great view. Please share your thoughts on this project with me. I'd also like your nominations for citizen representatives to the Building Committee which we hope to establish in September. If all goes well construction will begin next spring.

Bruce A. Taliento  
Portland City Council  
District #1, Ward #3

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## World Affairs Council The Fifth Maine

On July 27 20 members of the World Affairs Council dined at the Inn on Peaks and held a meaningful discussion on the programs ahead.



Newly elected board member Hon. Francis Russell of Turner, Maine was the highlight as he presented the history of World Affairs Councils and their objectives. Mr. Russell is retired from a lifetime of public service with the State Department and has been Ambassador to several countries.

Much of the discussion centered on the use or disposal of Battery Steele. It was decided to seek an amendment to the deed from CBIDA in asking for the elimination of reversionary rights if the site is not built upon within ten years. The WAC would like the freedom to dispose of the site either by donation to a public agency, or sale of the property for selective use.

A report on plans for the Fourth Annual United Nations Ball to be held on Oct 22 at the Red Coach Convention Center was made by chairman Mary Jane Cummings.

Frank Sleeper, business reporter for the Gannett papers was given the green light to pursue a fund raising event which he suggested.

President Eva Horton (Kristia Associates Importers) asked for and received authorization to engage an attorney to file for tax exemption.

Sunday July 31 was Open House day at the Fifth Maine. In collaboration with Portland's Greater Portland Landmarks, an effective presentation was made with a capacity audience from the mainland and Peaks Island.

Off-island visitors were hosted by an island tour with pauses before each of the most historic homes, following by a tea in the dining room of the building and climaxed by the GRL slide program showing accomplishments in the Portland area.

The Landmarks group designed the invitations sent to more than 1,000 mainlanders and also a very effective brochure to be used from now on as a fund raising information piece.

The Eighth Maine Regiment building was also included in the tour and brochure.

Of special interest is the endeavor to find names and addresses of Civil War descendants throughout Maine to build a clientele for helping the Fifth Maine and Peaks Island to become a Civil War Center for all of Maine.

A new dues structure will be officially voted on at the next regular meeting on August 8. This will be presented as:  
\$3.00 general membership  
\$10. supporting member  
\$25 and over, Restoration Patron.

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## HUMORIST-ED MAYO

Artist Ed Mayo of Kennebunk made a real hit with those that attended the Fifth Maine featured event arranged by CBIDA.



He not only kept everyone in "stitches" with his brand of dump humor, but he performed a truly professional artistic act. His blank canvas was a masterpiece of evolution as he deftly brush-stroked a beautiful rock scene which the artists present recognized in technique and blending of paints could only be done by a truly long established artist of some note.

All the while with few pauses he carried on his humorous indulgences on many subjects aside from his dump humor.

The event could have been better attended, but was a respectable cross section of the island.

The auction of the painting proved the "proof of the pudding" as one active artist kept bidding upwards while another patron of the Casco Bay Art Association kept topping the bid until he finally won out. For \$100 Ed Williams carried off the prize.

The picture proceeds went to the sponsors, and therefore made the event a bit more than solvent.

Thanks to all who helped to make this unique event successful.

Bea Chapman



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Peaks Island offers various wildlife habitat, of excellent quality. Much of the upland areas are covered with dense, sheltering, coniferous forest, adjacent to hard wood and browse trees. The island is particularly lush in the spring and summer with it's many forms of grasses, sprouting birch and alders. There are old fields and orchards partially filled in with maple trees, still harboring large pockets of clover, tall grass and shrubs. There exists many reed filled marshes along with ponds and alder swamps. For example, Trout Pond on the back shore, although shallow with emergent vegetation, does support fish life. The existence of these different land types means that the island offers varied wetland, forest land and shrub land habitat.

Swamps and alder growth are very attractive to the existing Woodcock, the Mourning dove and transplanted pheasant species. The marshes and ponds serve as rest stops or nesting sites for migratory waterfowl

## Peaks Island Wildlife



such as Teal, Black Duck, Pintail, and Widgeon. Warm water fish such as the Small-mouth Bass is capable of sustaining itself in the spring-fed habitats. Aquatic fur bearing specie in the region include the Muskrat as evidenced by the numerous dens throughout the marshes. As is typical of the Maine shores, the island is very productive in terms of shore birds and other rare species such as the Black Crowned Night Heron and White Ibis, as recently sited on the island. Deer are occasionally seen while walking or hiking.

Of importance is the maintenance of these wildlife habitats. Care should be taken to preserve the character of the wetlands, forests and ponds. Investigations indicate improvements for waterfowl breeding and nesting would be a significant need, with added responsibility of enhancing recreational uses for islanders and visitors alike.

Indications are that hiking, picnicing and bicycling are favorite outdoor pastime activities of islanders, as evidenced by the popular enjoyment of the back shore and former reservation land. Through the efforts of the Casco Bay Island Development Association, this natural resource area of nearly 100 acres has been put aside as parkland and dedicated open space. A generous gift of land by the Island Citizens Association and a large tract, in memory of Glenn E. Haines have been given to the State of Maine to be used in conjunction. next page



## WILDLIFE cont.

junction with a Wildlife Management Area. Other tracts of land for open space are being considered.

The enhancement of these sites is being studied by the Portland Planning Department and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in order to develop a co-operative multiple use area and observe common practices related to recreation and wildlife uses. Much of Casco Bay is representative of primitive types of land which are disappearing. Many of these landmarks have particular wildlife value as a refuge for rare species, as rookeries, breeding sites, or seasonal migratory points; of greater importance are their environmental and casual uses that lend essential char-

acter to our human needs.

Bruce Lincoln



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## Greetings From The Casco Bay Health Center

A Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation class will be held on Peaks Island August 22 and 23 in the evening. Please call the Health Center (871-2901) to register for the class. There is no charge.

### HEALTH TIPS FOR THE MONTH

**SPRAINS** - Oh, for a nice walk on the rocks - such fun! How romantic - until you lose your balance on the shale or jumping from rock to rock. Ouch, that ankle hurts! What to do? Immerse it in the ocean - nice and cooling - repack the sprained area in ice from the picnic cooler - anything that is cold and handy. Keep up the ice packs 20 minutes on and 20 minutes off for 12 to 24 hours (this is to prevent and reduce swelling) An ace bandage firmly but not tightly applied helps when standing on your feet. After 24 hours start soaking the limb in salt water as hot as you can stand for 20 minutes three times a day. Re-apply the ace bandage and elevate the foot when not walking. Remove the ace bandage at bedtime and elevate the foot on a pillow. Aspirin or Tylenol can be taken for discomfort but if pain con-

tinues it would be advisable to visit your physician. Any severe sprain could be a fracture and should be X-rayed.

**LACERATIONS** - A laceration is another injury seen often during the summer months. Always soak or wash thoroughly after the bleeding has stopped. Follow the instructions as for abrasions but if the edges of the skin do not stay together easily or if the cut is extensive, suturing will probably be necessary. Please see a physician.

To prevent foot lacerations, please wear some type of foot covering while on the beach, on the rocks or while swimming.

Marge and Bette

### CASCO BAY HEALTH COUNCIL

August '77 represents a one year milestone for the Casco Bay Health Center. On August 20th one year ago, islanders, Maine Medical Center and City of Portland officials gathered on Sterling Street to celebrate the opening of a long-awaited dream on Peaks Island. Since then over 400 people have been seen at the Center. And we are just getting underway!

August is our anniversary month! Several activities are planned to generate enthusiasm and support for the Health Center. The building renovations are complete but we still need to reduce a \$8700.00 mortgage and insure funds for maintenance and utilities. We hope you will support our efforts.

The Casco Bay  
Health Council

**Judy McDermott**

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On Saturday, July 30, St. Christopher Church had their annual fair which was a great success. At 1:00 in the afternoon there was a Karate demonstration on the church lawn for everyone to witness. Some members of the Maine Karate Association came to demonstrate different types of martial arts such as Kung Fu, Taekwondo, Hapkido and Karate.

Master Seung - Ook Choi (Chi) works as a staff member and trainer for the Maine Karate Association, he holds a 6th degree black belt in Karate from the South Korean Tae-Kwon Do Association, and is a master of Moo-dun Kung Fu, a 3rd degree black belt in Hapkido, and a first degree in Judo. He is also a weapons expert in such special weapons as Nanchuku, knives and chains and Bo-ng (bow staff), the latter of which he demonstrated for us on Saturday. The other experts that came to the island for the demonstration were Tony Steinman-Nidan, Multi-Kata champion

## KARATE

of Maine. Frank Thiboutot who is in a 5th degree Kata, Cathey Emmons, of Peaks Island, brown belt in Karate, who also is instructor of classes here on the island, who's students are demonstrating techniques with the instructors on opposite page, and Reginald D. Groff, Chief Instructor of the Maine Karate Association. The group put on a very exciting show for us, Demonstrating a great variety of special exercises, falls

and strikes, those of which take a great amount of control for when practicing, neither you nor your opponent are supposed to make contact with a blow. So very precisely timed and so very accurate is this control over almost every muscle in your body, so that you do not harm yourself or your opponent, except in self defense.

I would personally like to thank the Maine Karate Association for giving us the opportunity to let everyone who was,nt at the demonstration see what this fascinating art is all about and hopefully experience how healthful it is for both the mind and body.

Cathey Emmons will be instructing classes in Karate every Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 at the school playground, for a very minimal monthly fee. For more information on classes please contact Cathey at 766 - 4484.

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PHOTOS - GARY CHAPMAN  
*Peake Island Times*



# CHURCH EVENTS

## BRACKETT MEMORIAL

112 years ago the Methodists of the Machias, Maine area founded The East Machias Camp Meeting Association, Inc., better known far and wide as The Jacksonville Camp Meeting. It has been in continuous operation ever since. Ten or so, years ago, the Camp Meeting fell upon hard times. But then the Rev. Roy E. Pike (now at South Portland and Thornton Heights) was appointed to serve the Calais United Methodist Church; and the Rev. Charles D. Dorchester (now at West Scarborough) was appointed to serve Machias, Jacksonville, Cutler and Lubec. This was the beginning of a new life. The Rev. Dr. Paul R. Bell (now at Clark Memorial) was invited to be the evangelist and things began to prosper.

Working youth camps, Ecumenical Vacation Church School, Bible Studies, Morning and Afternoon Worship services, Evening Evangelistic services unashamedly calling for commitments to Christ all came into being. New cottages, campsites and parking areas came into being. Street lights, water and sewerage systems became realities. Public Turkey Dinners, Silver Teas and sales added to the mistique. Young lives were formed and changed, adult lives were given meaning and direction, and the least, the lost and lonely were gathered into Christ's family.

Each year toward the end of July, people begin wending their way to Jacksonville Camp Meeting. Cottage owners live as far away as Wisconsin but they are there each year when the meeting starts. They are probably introduced to Jacksonville by their grandparents when they were small children. And just as on Peaks Island, they return every year to the place where they have known great happiness, to once again share in the good things God provides for us all.

Jacksonville Camp Meeting is Methodist, and unashamedly so, but its regular attendants are: Baptist, Nazarine, Congregational, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Pentecostal, Reformed Church of Latter Day Saints and many others. All are welcome, all are asked to take part, and most do.

At first, many wonder if the youth camp at Jacksonville is not direct competition to our efforts at Mechawana. Actually, it is not. It may supplement Mechawana in a particular way but it is deliberately designed not to compete. In fact, most of the adults and youth involved at Jacksonville are also involved at Mechawana. The Jacksonville youth camp is deliberately designed to be directly evangelistic and to assist the youth to come to a decision to serve Christ with their lives.

The Trading Post carries a fine selection of gifts this year. Birthday and Christmas presents can be bought at very reasonable prices. The attracting feature is a stamp collection which can be used by adults as well as children. There are only four books left. These books contain the new stamps put out this year of 1977. Anyone who purchases these has a stamp treasury of all 1977 U.S. commemorative stamps. Start your new arrivals of 1977 with this stamp collection and add to it every year. What a joy young people will have when they can present every U.S. stamp published from the year they were born up to the present. Drop in and see all the offerings for your pleasure.

St. Christopher Church was filled to capacity on Saturday July 16, with friends of Joyce Bemis and Jack Hutchins. They had gathered together to witness the marriage ceremony of Joyce and Jack. Reverend Carl Russell of the Episcopal Church in Portland conducted the services. After the blessing of the rings, the presentation of them and the marriage vows Reverend Russell presented to the congregation Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hutchins. A reception followed the ceremony in the Church Hall. Reverend Carl Russell conducts services at St. Christopher Church for the Episcopalians every Sunday morning at 10:30.

## SERENITY

THE GREATEST SIN - STANLEY  
HALL ONCE CALLED THE GREAT,  
SIN OF MATURITY LOSING ONE'S  
ZEST FOR LIFE.

AND SO, BESIDE THE SILENT SEA,  
I WAIT THE MUFFLED OAR;  
NO HARM FROM HIM CAN COME TO ME  
ON OCEAN OR ON SHORE.

- JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER -

AFFLICTIONS - NO AFFLICTION  
WOULD TROUBLE A CHILD OF GOD,  
IF HE KNEW GOD'S REASON FOR  
SENDING IT. - MORGAN



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CASCO BAY ART ASSOCIATION  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
1977 SEASON

August 10 Reception for Mario Cooper, Dale Myers  
and Mr. Cooper's Students

August 12 Children's Contest with Theme of "Isle  
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August 20 WCSH Sidewalk Art Festival in Portland



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